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HEADER

R 061822Z JAN 06

FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//DPMO//

TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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ZEN/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC @ JOINT STAFF(UC)

ZEN/OSD DPMO

ZEN/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC @ JOINT STAFF(UC)

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJ: DEFENSE POW/MISSING PERSONNEL OFFICE (DPMO) MEETINGS AND
ACTIVITIES IN UKRAINE, JULY 8-AUGUST 19, 2005

SUBJECT: DEFENSE POW/MISSING PERSONNEL OFFICE (DPMO) MEETINGS AND
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REF: USEMBASSY KYIV 291448Z SEP 05

1. IAW REFTTEL, DR. JAMES CONNELL AND MSG MICHAEL LUNINI (THE TEAM) VISITED UKRAINE JULY 8-AUGUST 19, 2005 TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WITH SOVIET VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WARS AND TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UKRAINIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD) REGARDING ARCHIVAL MATERIALS IN KYIV AND KHARKIV.
2. ON JULY 11, 2005, THE TEAM MET WITH GENERAL OLEKSANDR GRIGORYEVICH YURCHENKO, CHIEF OF THE MILITARY COMMISSARIAT (VOYENKOMAT) OF THE KYIV ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (OBLAST) (TEL: 216-5004). YURCHENKO ARRANGED A MEETING FOR JULY 13 WITH MAJOR OLEKSANDR OLEKSANDROVICH BOJDYUK (TEL: 456-11-01), THE DEPUTY COMMISSAR OF THE KYIV CITY MILITARY COMMISSARIAT. MAJOR BOJDYUK AGREED TO PROVIDE A LIST OF KOREAN AND VIETNAM WAR VETERANS LIVING IN THE CITY WITHIN A WEEK TO TEN DAYS, AND ON JULY 20, HE PROVIDED LISTS OF 96 VIETNAM WAR AND 29 KOREAN WAR VETERANS FOR EIGHT OF KYIV'S TEN REGIONS. ON JULY 28, MAJOR BOJDYUK PROVIDED AN ADDITIONAL LIST OF 14 KOREAN WAR AND 22 VIETNAM WAR VETERANS FOR THE REMAINING TWO REGIONS.
3. ON JULY 13, THE TEAM MET WITH GENNADIJ BURYAK, DIRECTOR OF THE UKRAINIAN STATE ARCHIVES. THE TEAM GAVE HIM A LIST OF AMERICANS

Reviewed by DPMO

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REPORTEDLY SIGHTED IN FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS OR ABOUT WHOM INFORMATION MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. BURYAK AGREED TO FORWARD THIS LIST TO THE UKRAINIAN SECURITY SERVICE (SBU), MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (MVD), AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MID) FOR AN ARCHIVAL REVIEW. THIS REVIEW WAS COMPLETED ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2005, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

4. ON JULY 13, THE TEAM MET WITH COLONEL JAMES MOLLOY, THE RECENTLY ASSIGNED U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHI (DATT) IN KYIV, AND BRIEFED HIM AT LENGTH ON DPMO S ACTIVITIES IN UKRAINE. AFTER PROVIDING A BACKGROUND AND STATUS OF DPMO S EFFORTS TO ACCESS ARCHIVAL AND OTHER MATERIALS IN KYIV AND KHARKIV, THE DATT ARRANGED A MEETING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (DICMOD) FOR JULY 15, 2005.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE TEAM AND COLONEL MOLLOY, THE FOLLOWING UKRAINIANS WERE PRESENT AT THE JULY 15 MEETING: COL MEKHED, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DICMOD; COL SADOVSKIJ, ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DICMOD; LTC BUGERA, DIRECTOR, CENTRAL ARCHIVE MOD; AND MAJ PANCHENKO, AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, DICMOD.

6. COLONEL MOLLOY BEGAN THE MEETING BY EXPRESSING THE IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OF THE **POW/MIA** ISSUE. HE ASKED THAT THIS MEETING BE USED TO DETERMINE WHAT STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO SECURE DIRECT ACCESS BY DPMO RESEARCHERS TO MOD FACILITIES REPORTEDLY HOLDING MATERIALS CONCERNING SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE KOREAN AND VIETNAM WARS. [JSCD NOTE: IN JANUARY 2004, DPMO RESEARCHERS FIRST LEARNED OF NINE COLLECTIONS OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF SOVIET MILITARY UNITS IN THE KOREAN AND VIETNAM WARS THAT ARE HELD AT THE CENTRAL ARCHIVE OF THE MOD, KYIV. DPMO ANALYSTS HAVE MET FIVE TIMES WITH DICMOD REPRESENTATIVES; DASD JERRY JENNINGS, DIRECTOR OF **POW/MIA** AFFAIRS, HAS SENT TWO LETTERS TO THE MOD; ACTING DASD EURASIA (ASD/ISP) JAMES MACDOUGALL SPOKE WITH DEFENSE MINISTER HRITSSENKO IN MAY 2005; AND AMBASSADOR JOHN HERBST WROTE TO HRITSSENKO IN MAY 2005 REQUESTING ACCESS TO THIS MATERIAL. TO DATE, THE UKRAINIAN MOD HAS NEITHER GRANTED ACCESS TO THESE IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS, NOR HAS IT GIVEN DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR CONTENTS, EVEN THOUGH A BILATERAL AGREEMENT (GOVERNMENT SHARING OF DEFENSE INFORMATION AGREEMENT, GSODIA) IS IN FORCE BETWEEN U.S. AND UKRAINE THAT AUTHORIZES SHARING OF SUCH INFORMATION.]

A. COLONEL MEKHED RESPONDED THAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS REQUIRED CONCERNING DPMO S INTEREST IN THE UNIVERSITY OF AIR FORCES MATERIALS BEFORE ANY RESPONSE COULD BE PREPARED. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE DICMOD REQUIRED VERIFICATION OF THE SECURITY CLEARANCES OF DPMO RESEARCHERS.

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B. COLONEL MOLLOY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF USING THE GSODIA IN RESOLVING THE MATTER OF ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL MATERIALS. HE POINTED OUT THAT DECLASSIFICATION OF THOUSANDS OF PAGES COULD TAKE DECADES, AND THE **POW/MIA** ISSUE IS TIME SENSITIVE, AS THE RELATIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN WAITING FOR DECADES FOR ANSWERS ON THEIR MISSING LOVED ONES. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO EXPLOIT THESE PROMISING DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS, HE NOTED.

C. LIEUTENANT COLONEL BUGERA STATED THAT DECLASSIFICATION IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MOD ARCHIVE, AND HIS FACILITY HAS EXTREMELY LIMITED RESOURCES. HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT HE HAS PREPARED AN ADDITIONAL SUMMARY OF THE COLLECTIONS, AND THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE GENERAL STAFF FOR RELEASE TO DPMO. THE TEAM RECEIVED THIS SUMMARY PRIOR TO ITS DEPARTURE FROM UKRAINE.

D. COLONEL MEKHED EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF DPMO S MISSION AND AGREED THAT A METHOD FOR EXPEDITING THE WORK NEEDS TO BE FOUND. HE EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT S ACCOUNTING EFFORTS, BUT THE MOD HAS RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON RELEASING MATERIAL, AND USING THE GSODIA AS THE BASIS FOR THE WORK COULD COMPLICATE THE ISSUE OF GETTING THE INFORMATION TO THE AMERICAN SIDE. MEKHED SAID HE NOW HAS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO PREPARE A PROPOSAL TO THE GENERAL STAFF ON WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT CLARIFY WHAT HIS PROPOSAL WOULD BE, AND THE ULTIMATE DECISION WOULD COME FROM THE DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER.

E. IN ADDITION TO THE MATERIAL IN KYIV, THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED THE
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 *****/

ACTIVITIES IN UKRAINE, JULY 8-AUGUST 19, 2005

RECENT DISCOVERY OF VIETNAM WAR-ERA MATERIALS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AIR FORCES IN KHARKIV. IN MARCH 2005, DPMO ANALYSTS LEARNED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF AIR FORCES IN KHARKIV HAS DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS OF INTEREST TO DPMO S ACCOUNTING MISSION. INTERVIEWS WITH FACULTY AND ALUMNI, WHO ALSO SERVED AS SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS IN NORTH VIETNAM, REVEALED THAT COMBAT REPORTS FROM SOVIET ADVISORS, AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE, AND MATERIAL CONCERNING THE INTERROGATION OF AMERICAN POWS ARE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY.

F. MASTER SERGEANT LUNINI SAID THAT THE DETAILED ARCHIVAL SEARCH GUIDE PROVIDED TO THE DICMOD IN JANUARY 2004 EXPLAINS WHAT **POW/MIA** INFORMATION, BELIEVED TO BE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AIR FORCES, IS OF INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. SHOULD DPMO ANALYSTS LOCATE INFORMATION THAT COULD POSSIBLY HELP CLARIFY THE FATES OF MISSING SERVICEMEN, THEY WOULD THEN WORK WITH THE MOD TO DECLASSIFY THIS MATERIAL SO THAT THE NEXT OF KIN AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE **POW/MIA** ACCOUNTING COMMUNITY COULD BE INFORMED.

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G. COLONEL MEKHED SAID THAT HE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE FOR DPMO ANALYSTS TO VISIT THE KHARKIV UNIVERSITY IN EARLY AUGUST AND ASKED MSG LUNINI TO PROVIDE A LIST OF U.S. RESEARCHERS AND THEIR CLEARANCES TO FACILITATE THIS VISIT.

7. ON JULY 18, THE TEAM RECEIVED A FACSIMILE FROM THE MOD REGARDING THE MOD ARCHIVES IN KYIV. AS EXPECTED, THE RESPONSE WAS LIMITED IN SCOPE AND FAILED TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF ACCESS. THE RESPONSE PROVIDED A LIST OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO FPN 83561 (JCSD NOTE: FPN OR FIELD POST NUMBER, IS A CODE USED IN ADDRESSING MAIL AND REFERS TO A SPECIFIC MILITARY UNIT. FPNs ARE SIMILAR TO THE U.S. APO SYSTEM. IN THIS CASE, FPN 83561 REFERS TO THE 508TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY REGIMENT), 1953-1954, AND TWO PARAGRAPHS CONCERNING THE ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS FOR SEVERAL SOVIET UNITS THAT SUPPORTED OPERATIONS IN NORTH VIETNAM. HOWEVER, AS WITH THE ENTRY CONCERNING KOREA, THERE WAS LITTLE INFORMATION OF IMMEDIATE VALUE. THE FIRST PARAGRAPH STATES, FPN 22650 [JCSD NOTE: AN UNIDENTIFIED MILITARY TRANSPORT AVIATION UNIT], FROM 18 JANUARY 1961 TO JUNE 5, 1961, DISPATCHED 8 LI-2 AIRCRAFT TO VIETNAM AND LAOS. IN ALL, EIGHT AIRCREWS FLEW A TOTAL OF 480 COMBAT MISSIONS, 34 PERSONS RECEIVED MEDALS AND/OR AWARDS. THE SECOND PARAGRAPH CONCERNS FPN 22528 [JCSD NOTE: ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED MILITARY TRANSPORT AVIATION UNIT] AND STATES, 145 AVIATORS FROM THE REGIMENT WERE AWARDED MEDALS FROM THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

8. THE DATT SENT A RESPONSE TO THE MOD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2005, EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THIS INFORMATION BUT STRESSING AGAIN THE NEED FOR DIRECT ACCESS BY DPMO RESEARCHERS.

9. ON JULY 18, THE TEAM BRIEFED SHEILA GWALTNEY, EMBASSY KYIV DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION (DCM), ON THE JULY 15 MEETING HELD AT THE DICMOD. THE DCM PLEDGED HER FULL SUPPORT FOR DPMO'S MISSION AND STATED THAT SHOULD THE DATT FAIL TO GAIN NEEDED COOPERATION FROM THE MOD, AMBASSADOR HERBST WOULD AGAIN SPEAK WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER. AS REQUESTED AT THE MEETING, SECURITY CLEARANCE INFORMATION FOR THREE JCSD RESEARCHERS WAS PASSED BY EMBASSY KYIV TO THE DICMOD.

10. ON AUGUST 2, 2005, THE MOD GRANTED THE TEAM PERMISSION TO MEET WITH THE ADMINISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE AIR FORCES (THE UNIVERSITY) IN KHARKIV DURING A THREE-DAY PERIOD (AUGUST 15-18, 2005). THE TEAM ARRIVED IN KHARKIV ON AUGUST 15 TO CARRY OUT INTERVIEWS WITH VIETNAM WAR VETERANS AND WAS ABLE TO SCHEDULE A MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY'S MUSEUM AND LASTED ONE HOUR. NO DOCUMENTS WERE AVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION, AND UKRAINIAN PARTICIPATION CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE UNIVERSITY.

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A. GENERAL VLADIMIR KONSTANTINOVICH MEDVEDEV, THE UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR, WAS UNAVAILABLE, SO COLONEL MIKHAIL PETROVICH DOLINA, THE UNIVERSITY CHIEF OF STAFF AND ACTING DIRECTOR, CHAIRED THE MEETING. ALSO ATTENDING WERE COLONEL VALERIY SERGEYEVICH AFANASENKO (DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT), COLONEL (RET) PROFESSOR NIKOLAY ANATOLYEVICH SHERSHNEV, LTC VASILIIY ANDREYEVICH KROTYUN (CHIEF LIBRARIAN), AND SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED STAFF OFFICERS. THE UNIVERSITY REPRESENTS ALL THAT REMAINS OF A VAST SOVIET MILITARY COMPLEX IN KHARKIV. IT WAS FORMED FROM THE AVIATION, ANTI-AIR DEFENSE, RADIO-TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, THE AVIATION ACADEMY, AND THE GROUND FORCES INSTITUTE OF ANTI-AIR DEFENSE.

B. COLONEL DOLINA WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSITY'S CREDENTIALS. HE STRESSED THAT MORE THAN 100,000 OFFICERS HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE AIR FORCES AND ITS PREDECESSOR INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING MORE THAN 500 HEROES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND 397 GENERALS. THE PRESENT-DAY UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITY OF THE AIR FORCES CONSISTS OF SEVEN DEPARTMENTS: THE FLIGHT (FIGHTER, BOMBER, AND HELICOPTER PILOTS), ANTI-AIR DEFENSE OF GROUND FORCES (INFANTRY SUPPORT), SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, MILITARY ENGINEERING, RADIO-TECHNICAL FORCES, COMMUNICATIONS/AIRPORT OPERATIONS DEPARTMENTS, AND A CADET TRAINING DEPARTMENT. THE UNIVERSITY HAS FOUR LEVELS OF ACCREDITATION, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION, AND THE FACULTY (INCLUDING ADJUNCT FACULTY) NUMBERS MORE THAN 1,700. THE UNIVERSITY IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF RELOCATING TO NEW FACILITIES ON A LOCAL MILITARY BASE.

C. THE TEAM DIRECTED THE DISCUSSION TO ACCESSING ARCHIVAL MATERIALS AT THE UNIVERSITY. COLONEL KROTYUN SAID THERE ARE NO FORMAL ARCHIVES, ONLY A SOVIET-STYLE LIBRARY. COLONEL SHERSHNEV, A VIETNAM WAR VETERAN AND OUR PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT AT THE UNIVERSITY, CONCEDED THAT INDIVIDUAL PROFESSORS MIGHT STILL HAVE MEMOIRS OR OTHER MATERIALS THAT ARE STILL CLASSIFIED IN THEIR OFFICE SAFES. SHERSHNEV SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY THESE MATERIALS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND DETERMINE IF THEY COULD BE DECLASSIFIED OR MADE AVAILABLE TO DPMO RESEARCHERS UNDER THE GSODIA. THE TEAM BELIEVES THAT COLONEL SHERSHNEV IS MOTIVATED TO COOPERATE, BECAUSE HE WANTS DPMO TO HELP HIM ESTABLISH RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS KHARKIV-BASED ORGANIZATION OF VIETNAM WAR VETERANS AND THE U.S. VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA. DPMO IS WORKING TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THIS RELATIONSHIP AND HAS INVITED THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA TO JOIN DPMO IN KHARKIV IN NOVEMBER 2005. COLONEL SHERSHNEV WILL STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE TEAM AND HAS REPORTEDLY ALREADY IDENTIFIED SEVERAL COLLECTIONS AND REQUESTED THEIR DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW.

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11. DPMO WILL RETURN TO UKRAINE IN NOVEMBER TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ACCESS THE UKRAINIAN ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS IN KYIV AND THE VIETNAM WAR-ERA HOLDINGS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE AIR FORCES IN KHARKIV.

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